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ORIGIN SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIS-01
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/047R		

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TAGS: PTER, PREL, LE, AR

SUBJECT: LEBANESE POSITION ON ARGENTINE INVESTIGATION  
OF AMIA BOMBING

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. LEBANESE EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR GABY SOUFAN  
CONTACTED S/CT ON AUGUST 1 TO SHARE WHAT HE DECLARED WAS  
THE GOL RESPONSE TO ARGENTINE REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION  
IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE AMIA BOMBING.

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3. ACCORDING TO SOUFAN THE GOL RESPONSE CONSISTS OF FOUR POINTS:

-- THE GOL DENOUNCES ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AIMED AT INNOCENT CIVILIANS;

-- THE GOL POSSESSES NO INFORMATION AS TO WHO MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING IN ARGENTINA.

-- THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA IN THE INVESTIGATION PROVIDED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT BACKS UP ITS REQUESTS

WITH "PROOF AND TANGIBLE FACTS," BUT IT CANNOT COMMIT ITSELF TO SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN ADVANCE OF RECEIVING PROOF.

-- IN THE ABSENCE OF PROOF AND TANGIBLE FACTS, THE GOL CANNOT OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF "HYPOTHESES." THE GOL IS UNAWARE OF ANY GROUP CALLED "ANSAR ALLAH" OPERATING ON LEBANESE SOIL. NEWS REPORTS OF UNKNOWN SOURCE AND

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ORIGIN ARE NOT AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR GOL ACTION AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR LEBANESE GROUP, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE GROUP IN QUESTION (READ HIZBALLAH) HAS DENIED INVOLVEMENT WITH THE BOMBING.

4. S/CT OFFICER THANKED SOUFAN FOR THE INFORMATION. HE COMMENTED PERSONALLY THAT, WHILE IT WAS REASONABLE TO ASK THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FOR A MEASURE OF PROOF TO BACK UP ITS REQUESTS, THE GOL, AS EVENTS DEVELOP SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO APPEAR TO DEFEND HIZBALLAH AND ITS INDEFENSIBLE RECORD. HE URGED SOUFAN TO RELAY A MESSAGE THAT THE USG HOPES LEBANON WILL COOPERATE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH ARGENTINA, THE UK, AND PANAMA, AS THOSE COUNTRIES GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MOST RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS. SOUFAN PROMISED TO KEEP DEPARTMENT APPRISED OF EVENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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